

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 984

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Co-Coaches, Paige Smith and Mark Strong, and the Celina K-8 Lady Bulldogs basketball team on their state championship season.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful middle school teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Celina K-8 Lady Bulldogs girls' basketball team is one such team, who recently won the James C. Haile Tournament, claiming their second straight title in a state invitational tournament after winning the TNT state tournament in 2007; and

WHEREAS, the team compiled a superb record season in the process, garnering twenty wins and only four losses with a perfect eleven win and zero loss record outside of the Cumberland Rim Conference and achieving an impressive nine win and three loss record during the regular conference season; and

WHEREAS, through diligence, dedication, and hard work, the team maximized their considerable talents and reached the pinnacle of middle school athletics; and

WHEREAS, Head Coaches Paige Smith and Mark Strong provided expert guidance and leadership for these young women throughout their outstanding season; and

WHEREAS, an extremely talented and hard working basketball team, Celina defeated Middle Tennessee Christian School (MTCS) 44-33 for the state title, leading for most of the game and sealing the win through a series of successful trips to the free throw line; and

WHEREAS, displaying the skill and character which had powered their tremendous success throughout the season, the Celina K-8 girls' basketball team impressed the crowd with their characteristically composed offense, artful defense, and rebounding edge; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Bulldogs are exceedingly grateful for the enthusiastic support provided by their families and their school, without whom none of their triumphs would have been possible; and

WHEREAS, the members of this extremely talented and gifted basketball team are: Mattie Monroe, Olivia Ashworth, Makala McLerran, Hannah Ogletree, Alex Grace, Emma Ogletree, Karlie Watson, Lacey Watson, Cherokee Capps, Kelsey Hix, Alexis Page, Ashley Ennis, Sydney Roach, and Allie Brown; and

WHEREAS, four of these talented young women, Sydney Roach, Emma Ogletree, Allie Brown, and Karlie Watson, were named to the All-State team at the James C. Haile tournament; and

WHEREAS, the basketball players at Celina K-8 epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved the highest level of success on the court while showing the greatest degree of character both on and off the court; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young women not only made possible a championship basketball season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Celina K-8 girls' basketball team for their success on the court and to thank them for serving as fine examples of Tennessee's youth; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join with the administration, faculty, staff, students, and fans of Celina K-8 in celebrating the Lady Bulldogs basketball team's James C. Haile Tournament State Championship, congratulate their achievement of a sterling season record, and commend the talented young women who accomplished this supreme success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.